

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-52 and 54 are pending in this case. Claims 24, 47, and 54 are amended, and Claims 1-23 are canceled by the present amendment. The changes to Claims 24, 47, and 54 are supported by the originally filed disclosure at least at Fig. 3 and at

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-13, 15-36, 38-52, and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Koguchi (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0141380) in view of Ben-Chorin, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,352,488, herein “Ben-Chorin”), and Claims 14 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Koguchi in view of Ben-Chorin, further in view of Kajita, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,706, herein “Kajita”).

In light of the cancelation of Claims 1-23, the rejections of those claims are moot.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of pending Claims 24-52 and 54.

Amended Claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, “a memory that **stores the image data in a first format following scanning correction...a printer engine that forms an image on a recording medium based on the stored image data without performing color conversion.**”

The outstanding Office Action asserts Koguchi as teaching every element of Claim 24 except “scanning correction which includes conversion from red, green, and blue (RGB) to cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (CMYK),” which it asserts Ben-Chorin as teaching.

However, the combination of Koguchi and Ben-Chorin fails to teach or suggest at least the above-quoted features of amended Claim 24.

At paragraph [0076], Koguchi explicitly states that “**image data** obtained in step S103 is **stored** in the storage unit 12 **without undergoing** any image processing such as...**color conversion.**” Thus, any modification of Koguchi with the scanning correction

described by Ben-Chorin must necessarily follow storage in storage unit 12, because an assertion to the contrary would derogate MPEP § 2143.01(VI) by changing an explicitly stated principle of operation of Koguchi.

Ben-Chorin describes, at column 4, lines 48-60, that the file containing RGB color data is converted to CMYK separations to form the image. Thus, a modification of Koguchi with Ben-Chorin describes storage in storage unit 12 of Koguchi **prior to rather than “following scanning correction** which includes conversion from red, green, and blue (RGB) to cyan, magenta, yellow, and black (CMYK),” as recited by Claim 24. Further, based on Ben-Chorin’s description of the formation of print output, the combination describes printing “that forms an image on a recording medium based on the stored image data” **following color conversion rather than “without performing color conversion,”** as recited by amended Claim 24.

Because, even if properly combined, Koguchi and Ben-Chorin fail to teach or suggest at least the above-discussed features of Claim 24, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 47 and 54, though differing in statutory class and scope from Claim 24, patentably define over the combination of Koguchi and Ben-Chorin for similar reasons as Claim 24. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 47 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

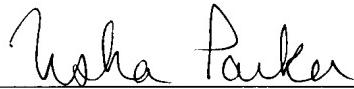
Claims 25-46 depend from Claim 24, and Claims 48-52 depend from Claim 47. Thus, Claims 25-46 and 48-52 patentably define over the combination of Koguchi and Ben-Chorin for at least the same reasons as Claims 24 and 47. Further, Kajita, which is additionally asserted against Claim 37, does not cure the deficiencies of the combination of Koguchi and Ben-Chorin with regard to Claims 24 and, further, is not asserted for the above-discussed

features that are deficient in Koguchi and Ben-Chorin. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 25-46 and 48-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Usha Munukutla-Parker
Registration No. 61,939

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)